

1 1. (currently amended) A method of aggregating a plurality of entries in a table in a database  
2 management system into an aggregated entry in the table or another table in the database  
3 management system, the method comprising the step of:

4 making the aggregated entry, the aggregated entry representing the plurality of entries  
5 and including a first field whose value is a metric value computed from a set of individual  
6 values of a field in the plurality of entries and a second field whose value is a representation of  
7 the individual values, the metric value having the property that the individual values from which  
8 the metric value was computed cannot be derived from the metric value and the representation  
9 of the individual values having the property that the individual values are derivable therefrom.

1 2. (original) The method set forth in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

2 deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry.

1 3. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2 the second field's value has a size which varies with the number of the individual values.

1 4. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 3 wherein:

2 The second field's value is a character string, the character string comprising a sequence  
3 of characters for each individual member of the set, and separator characters separating each  
4 sequence of characters.

1 5. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2 the second field's value has a size which is constant regardless of the number of the  
3 individual members in the set.

1 6. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 5 wherein:

2 the second field's value comprises a string of elements, the string of elements having an  
3 element corresponding to each potential value of the individual values that belong to the set, the  
4 presence of a particular individual value in the set being indicated by a first value of the  
5 corresponding element and the absence of the particular individual value from the set being  
6 indicated by a second value of the corresponding element.

1 7. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2 the individual values are time values.

8. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:  
the individual values are location values.

9. (cancelled)

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19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (cancelled)

25. (currently amended) A data storage device, characterized in that:

the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor performs aggregation of a plurality of entries in a table in a database management system into an aggregated entry in the table or another table in the database management system, the code comprising instructions for:

making the aggregated entry, the aggregated entry representing the plurality of entries and including a first field whose value is a metric value computed from a set of individual values of a field in the plurality of entries and a second field whose value is a representation of the individual values, the metric value having the property that the individual values from which the metric value was computed cannot be derived from the metric value and the representation of the individual values having the property that the individual values are derivable therefrom.

26. (previously presented) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that the code further comprises:

instructions for deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry.

27. (previously presented) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:

the second field's value has a size which varies with the number of the individual values.

28. (previously presented) The data storage device set forth in claim 27 further characterized in that:

The second field's value is a character string, the character string comprising a sequence of characters for each individual value, and separator characters separating each sequence of characters.

29. (previously presented) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:

the second field's value has a size which is constant regardless of the number of the individual values.

30. (previously presented) The data storage device set forth in claim 29 further characterized in that:

the second field's value comprises a string of elements, the string of elements having an element corresponding to each potential value of the individual values that belong to the set, the presence of a particular individual value being indicated by a first value of the corresponding element and the absence of the particular individual value being indicated by a second value of the corresponding element.

31. (previously presented) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:

the individual values are time values.

32. (previously presented) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:

the individual values are location values.

- 1 33. (cancelled)
- 2 34. (cancelled)
- 3 35. (cancelled)
- 4 36. (cancelled)
- 5 37. (cancelled)
- 6 38. (cancelled)
- 7 39. (cancelled)
- 8 40. (cancelled)
- 9 41. (cancelled)
- 10 42. (cancelled)
- 11 43. (cancelled)
- 12 44. (cancelled)
- 13 45. (cancelled)
- 14 46. (cancelled)
- 15 47. (cancelled)
- 16 48. (cancelled)

1 49. (previously presented) The method of aggregating a plurality of entries set forth in  
2 claim 1 wherein:  
3 the entries belonging to the plurality indicate occurrences of an event in the  
4 database management system, the occurrences being recorded by a management  
5 service in the database management system.

1 50. (previously presented) The method of aggregating a plurality of entries set forth in  
2 claim 49 further comprising the step of:  
3 deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry.

1 51. (previously presented) The method of aggregating a plurality of entries set forth  
2 in claim 50 wherein:  
3 the individual values indicate times of occurrence of the event of interest.

1 52. (previously presented) The method of aggregating a plurality of entries set forth in  
2 claim 50 wherein:  
3 the individual values indicate places of occurrence of the event of interest.

- 1 53. (previously presented) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 wherein:  
2 the entries belonging to the plurality indicate occurrences of an event in the  
3 database management system, the occurrences being recorded by a management  
4 service in the database management system.
- 1 54. (previously presented) The data storage device set forth in claim 53 wherein the  
2 code further comprises:  
3 instructions for deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated  
4 entry.
- 1 55. (previously presented) The data storage device set forth in claim 54 wherein:  
2 the individual values indicate times of occurrence of the event of interest.
- 1 56. (previously presented) The data storage device set forth in claim 54 wherein:  
2 the individual values indicate places of occurrence of the event of interest.